

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

By this amendment, claims 39-49 have been canceled in favor of new claims 50-97. Thus, claims 50-97 are pending.

Claims 39-49 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,256,357 in view of Chung (5,214,656). This rejection is traversed and is inapplicable to new claims 50-97.

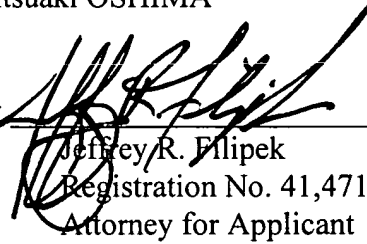
In new claims 50-97, BCH encoding/decoding is applied to a first data stream and Reed-Solomon encoding/decoding is applied to a second data stream. Claims 1-5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,256,357 do not recite such an arrangement of error correction code encoding/decoding. Moreover, Chung also does not disclose or suggest such an arrangement. Rather, Chung discloses that the encoders 121 and 131 are simple 4D 8-state trellis encoders. With respect to Reed-Solomon encoding, Chung only suggests that Reed Solomon encoding can be provided as an additional encoder in conjunction with the disclosed trellis encoders, such that the signal is first encoded by a Reed-Solomon encoder 115(116) and then further encoded by a trellis encoder 121(131) as illustrated in Fig. 9. Thus, Chung does not contemplate BCH encoding/decoding applied to a first data stream and Reed-Solomon encoding/decoding applied to a second data stream, but at best suggests both trellis encoding and Reed Solomon encoding applied to the same data stream. Accordingly it would not have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the present invention was made to combine the teachings of Chung with claims 1-5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,256,357 in such a way as to result in the inventions recited in claims 50-97.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that claims 50-97 are allowable over the prior art of record and that the present application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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